

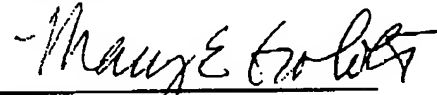
**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 have been amended in accordance with the requirements of U.S. -patent practice. Applicants respectfully request entry of the preliminary amendment.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the Application and pending claims are patentable in view of the foregoing amendments and/or remarks. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. As always, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Undersigned by telephone if direct conversation would be helpful.

Respectfully Submitted,



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